THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH ON THE SCAFFOLD before he was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 12 of *May*, 1641.

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THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH On the SCAFFOLD.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*, (and my Lords, and the reſt of theſe Gentlemen) it is a very great comfort to me, to have your Lordſhip by me this day in regard I have beene knowne to you a long time, I ſhould bee very glad to obtaine ſo much ſilence, as to bee heard a few wordes, but I doubt I ſhall not, my Lord I come hither by the good will and pleaſure of almighty God, to pay that laſt debt I owe to ſin, which is death,

and by the bleſſing of that God to riſe againe through the merits of Chriſt Jeſus to eternall glory; I wiſh I had beene private, that I might have beene heard, my Lord, if I might be ſo much beholding to you that I might uſe a few wordes, I ſhould take it for a very great Curteſie, my Lord I come hither to ſubmit to that judgement which hath paſt againſt mee, I doe it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveneſſe that is not ſpoken from the teeth outward (as they ſay) but from the heart; I ſpeake it in the preſence of Almighty God, before whom I ſtand, that there is not ſo much as a diſpleaſing thought in me ariſing to any Creature, I thanke God I may ſay truely, and my Conſcience beares me witneſſe, that in all my ſervices ſince I have had the Honour to ſerve his Majeſty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall proſperity of King and People; if it have beene my hap to bee miſconſter'd, it is the common portion of us all while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter, here wee are ſubject to errour, and apt to bee misjudged one of another; there is one thing I deſire to cleere my ſelfe off, and I am very confident, I ſpeake it with ſo much clearenеſſe, that I hope I ſhall have your Chriſtian Charity in the beliefe of it, I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happieſt Conſtitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and people happie, ſo farre have I beene from being againſt Parliaments; for my death I here acquit all the world, and pray God heartilie to forgive them; and in particular, my Lord Primate I am verie glad that his Majeſtie is pleaſed to conceive mee, not meriting ſo ſevere, and heavie a puniſhment as the utmoſt execution of this ſentence; I am very glad and infinitely rejoice in this mercy of his, and I beſeech

God

God to turne it to him, that he may find mercy when hee hath moſt need of it; I wiſh this Kingdome all the proſperitie and happineſſe in the world: I did it living, and now dying it is my wiſh, I doe now profeſſe it from my heart, and doe moſt humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wiſh every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and conſider ſeriouſly whither the beginnig of the happineſſe of a people ſhould be written in Letters of bloud, I feare you are in a wrong way, & I deſire almightie God that no one drop of my bloud may riſe up in judgment againſt you.

(My Lord,) I profeſſe my ſelfe a true and obedient Son to the *Church* of *England*, to that *Church* wherein I was borne, and wherein I was bred; *proſperitie* and *happineſſe*, be ever to it: and whereas it hath been ſaid that I have enclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth anſwering, let me ſay truely, that from the time ſince I was one and twenty yeares of age, till this houre, now going upon nine and forty, I never had thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my Religion in *England*: and never any had the boldneſſe to ſuggeſt to me the contrary, to the beſt of my remembrance; and ſo being reconciled to the mercies of *Chriſt Jeſus* my Saviour, into whoſe boſome I hope ſhortly to be gather'd to enjoy thoſe eternall happineſſes that ſhall never have end. I deſire heartily the forgiveneſſe of every man, both for any raſh or unadviſed word, or deed, and deſire your Prayers: And ſo my Lords farewell, farewell all the things of this world, LORD ſtrengthen my faith, give me confidence and aſſurance in the merits of *Chriſt Ieſus*. I deſire you that you would be ſilent and joyne in Praires with me; and I truſt in GOD that we ſhall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accompliſhment of all happineſſe, where every teare ſhal be wiped from our eyes, and every ſad thought from our hearts: And ſo GOD bleſſe this Kingdome, and *Ieſus* have mercy upon my ſoule.

FINIS.